ii)	M/s. Pamba Rubber	:	255 met. tonnes
(iii)	M/s. Periyar Rubber	:	78 met. tonnes
(iv)	M/s. Pazhassi Rubber	:	53 met. tonnes
			8684 met. tonnes

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The rubber supplied by the Kerala State Cooperative Rubber Marketing Federation (KSCRMF) has been found to be of poor quality by the consuming industry. STC has lodged claims with the KSCRMF in the matter. The dispute has not been settled so far.

(e) During the last ten months, STC has released 7000 metric tonnes of natural rubber.

(f) Government has already directed the State Trading Corporation of India to purchase RMA-4 and RMA-5 grades of natural rubber from the domestic market. STC will continue its purchase operations till the 7-days moving average prices of these grades reach the desired level.

Purchase of Rubber by STC

1559. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently directed State Trading Corporation to purchase RMA V Grade rubber;

(b) if so, the quantity of rubber purchased by STC and kept in the buffer stock;

(c) whether the Government purpose to direct STC to purchase more quantity of RMA V Grade and also ungraded rubber; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have directed the State Trading Corporation of India in the first week of October, 1991 to purchase RMA-5 grade of natural rubber from the domestic market. The STC has so far purchased about 984 met. tonnes of RMA-5 grade of natural rubber from the domestic market and kept in the stock maintained by them.

(c) and (d). The directions already given to the STC for purchase of RMA-5 grade of rubber does not indicate any limit with regard to quantity to be purchased. Subject to the quality specifications, STC will continue to purchase RMA-5 grade of rubber from the domestic market till the seven days moving average price of RMA-5 grade reaches the desired level. No instructions have been issued to STC to purchase upgraded rubber.

Stock Formula of Rubber

1560. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing stock formula of rubber;

(b) whether the Government have changed or propose to change the above formula;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Government have not issued any statutory directive or entered into any written agreement with any sector with regard to the stock to be maintained. However, based on informal consultations among the concerned sectors and the understanding reached amongst them, untii recently a stock reserve equivalent to two months' consumption had been adopted while calculating the deficit to be met by imports. No imports are expected to be made during the current year.

Narcotics Smuggling

1561. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with the neighbouring countries to launch a joint drive to approched smugglers engaged in the smuggling of narcotics; and

(b) whether the Government have also signed the United Nations Anti-Drug Campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) There is no formal agreement for joint drives against narcotics smugglers, but arrangements for exchange of intelligence and cooperation in investigations are available on bilateral basis with Pakistan and through the aegis of the SAARC with other neighbouring countries.

(b) India is a party to all United Nations conventions on the subject.

Restructuring of NTC Mills

1562. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "resources for golden hand shake; NTC asked to sell land, machinery" appearing in the Economic Times dated November 13, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether there is no other way out to provide compensation to the workers except to dispose of the assets;

(d) if so, the reasons for such a situation; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure the recurrence of such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRHY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AHSOK GEHLOT): (a). Yes Sir,

(b) to (d). National Textile Corporation has submitted 8th plan proposals which inter-alia envisages amalgamation etc. of certain unviable mills. These proposals are under corporation at different levels with reference to various implications including workers compensation.

(e) To ensure non-recurrence of such a situation in future, it is proposed to make the NTC mills viable through modernisation, amalgamation etc.

[*Translation*]

Enquiry Regarding ST. Kitts Bank accounts.

1563. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to